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The Conservation Reserve

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FOR LAND PROTECTION

FOR SURPLUS CONTROL

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in cooperation with Soil Conservation
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THE CONSERVATION RESERVE

For Land Protection—For Surplus Control

An important part of the Nation's normal farm plant no longer produces burdensome and costly surplus crops. This land is in the Conservation Reserve. It is being protected by grass, trees, or wildlife plantings, or is being used to conserve water.

Storing Land Instead of Surpluses

The Conservation Reserve stores land and its productivity, instead of storing surplus products. It stops farm surpluses at the source by enabling farmers to reduce voluntarily the number of acres in production.

Through this program, the Nation's agricultural plant will be reduced in 1960 by approximately 28 million acres, or about 6 percent of the Nation's total cropland.

Two-thirds of the land in the Reserve is on farms where owners placed *all* of their eligible acres in the program. On these farms, all the cropland is out of production—including the allotted acreages of major surplus crops. There has also been substantial crop reduction on the remaining Reserve acreage.

How the Conservation Reserve Works

The Conservation Reserve is a program in which a farmer voluntarily signs a contract with the U. S. Department of Agriculture to retire cropland from production and devote it to conservation uses for 3 to 10 years. In turn, the Department makes an annual rental payment to the farmer and pays part of the cost of establishing the agreed-upon conservation use on the land.

During the life of the contract, no crop is harvested from land in the Conservation Reserve. The land is not grazed. Total crop acreage on the farm must be reduced by the amount of land placed in the Reserve.



N-23436

OUT OF CORN INTO GRASS—This is 75-bushel corn land but the Conservation Reserve tract (left) is in grass and no longer adds to costly surpluses. In early 1960, the Government owned \$8 billion worth of surplus crops, with another \$1.7 billion under price-support loan.



N-27574

FROM WHEAT TO PERMANENT COVER—In the Great Plains States, the Conservation Reserve is helping with the most serious of all crop surplus problems—that of wheat. More than 2 million acres formerly devoted to wheat were in the Conservation Reserve in 1959.



N-33596

BOON TO WILDLIFE—Wildlife plantings and water storage are among the approved uses of Conservation Reserve acres. Wildlife specialists give this program credit for helping to increase numbers of pheasant, quail, and other small game.



F-492958

MORE LAND IN TREES—More than 2 million acres of Conservation Reserve land are being planted to forest trees, chiefly in the Southeast. Tree-planting contracts are for the full 10-year period and much of the land is likely to remain out of production permanently.

